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THE LAWYERS REPORTS ANNOTATED—All Current Cases of General Value and Importance, with full Annotation. Burdett A. Rich and Henry P. Farnham, Editors. Book LV., Rochester, N. Y.: The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company, 1902. Pp. 1026.

THE LAWYERS REPORTS ANNOTATED, or, as they are commonly cited and described, the L. R. A., are a series of selected cases, established in 1888, and issued at the rate of four volumes a year. The pages are large with double columns and small type. The cases are selected from the decisions of the courts of last resort in the several states and from the United States circuit courts and the circuit courts of appeals. Each volume is issued in bi-weekly parts, which may be exchanged for the bound volume when it is ready. The cases appear very promptly after their decision, often long in advance of the official report. The cases are most admirably reported. The statements of fact are full and complete, and the briefs of counsel are carefully abstracted and reproduced—a feature peculiar to this series and one which indicates that the editors must often put themselves into communication with the counsel in the case in order to obtain such full information. Every case is annotated,—sometimes only to the extent of referring to the previous cases in this series, while to other cases notes are appended which surpass in fullness any with which we are acquainted elsewhere. At the end of each volume is an interesting "Resume of the decisions published in this book." The cases included in this volume would make at least two such volumes as the last number of the United States supreme court reports, while the notes if published in regular law book form would make a text-book of about eight hundred pages. The books are well printed and bound. The only objection which can be urged to the mechanical execution is the smallness of type, but as to this, we believe that the users some time since when the matter was submitted to them for decision, declared that they preferred the present type to any other which would reduce the amount of matter in each book.

So much about the general nature of these books. The most important matter, of course, is the question of the selection of the cases. With respect of this, no two men would precisely agree. The cases that suit one man's need may, owing to a difference in location or the line of work pursued, prove not so well fitted to another's needs. How widely different may be the principle of selection adopted is shown by the fact that while the AMERICAN STATE REPORTS and the LAWYERS REPORTS ANNOTATED were begun in the same year and have since been covering substantially the same ground, the number of cases found in both series is comparatively small. A colleague when recently asked which of the two series gave him the more help in his work, replied, "The American State Reports." In response to the same question another member of the Faculty replied, "The Lawyers Reports Annotated." More cases upon new and unusual points are believed to appear in the latter than in the former; there are certainly more cases wherein there were dissenting opinions. The cases in the latter series are also better reported, if the fuller statements of the facts and the reproduction of the briefs of counsel are to be deemed of value. Without, however, attempting further comparisons, it is safe to say that everyone who has had an opportunity to use the L. R. A., will agree that they do "give help in hard places," and that the man who buys them gets full value for his money.

FLOYD R. MECHEM